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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAC #0140 0661036
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 061036Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6676
INFO RUCNMER/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0579
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0243

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 000140

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STATE FOR WHA/BSC KBEAMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [CO](#) [ER](#) [PA](#)
SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN RESPONSE TO DEATH OF FARC COMMANDER

Classified By: DCM Michael J. Fitzpatrick for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) President Nicanor Duarte Frutos condemned March 4 Colombia's actions in killing FARC Commander Raul Reyes, stating that Paraguay condemned Colombia's "external aggression" and reaffirmed "the sovereignty of nations" such as Ecuador. A confidential message from the Paraguayan government to the OAS obtained by the newspaper ABC Color indicated that Paraguay formally acknowledged its support for Ecuador and opposition to Colombia's action. Ecuadorian Ambassador to Paraguay Julio Prado Espinosa told ABC Color March 4 that Duarte had expressed solidarity with Ecuador following Colombia's incursion into Ecuadorian territory to kill Reyes. (NOTE: Paraguayan diplomatic sources indicated to ABC Color that Duarte phoned Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa personally to offer his support. END NOTE.)

¶2. (C) COMMENT: President Duarte took a nationalistic and populist stance yet again. This is in keeping with his ongoing domestic campaign prior to April's presidential and congressional elections here. Duarte did not mention the Venezuelan government's response to the killing, and has avoided all press reports regarding FARC's presence in Ecuador in the first place. As a result, Duarte appears to be balancing his own populist rhetoric by showing his solidarity with Ecuador and its ally, Venezuela, without taking the controversial stand of acknowledging support for Venezuela in this conflict. COMMENT.

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